



Legislative Updates as of 03/06/2026

Week Eight Weekly

This week at the Georgia General Assembly was one of the most consequential of the 2026 legislative session as lawmakers raced toward Crossover Day, the key deadline that determines which bills can continue moving this year. Committees and floor sessions were packed as legislators worked long hours debating and voting on hundreds of proposals before the Friday, March 6th deadline, with activity continuing late into the evening as lawmakers worked to move legislation before time ran out.

Crossover Day refers to the point in the legislative session when a bill must pass out of its chamber of origin—either the Georgia House of Representatives or the Georgia State Senate—in order to remain eligible for consideration during the remainder of the session. If a bill does not pass its original chamber by Crossover Day, it is generally considered “dead” for the year unless its language is later added to another bill that is still moving through the process.

The Topspin Government Relations team was at the Capitol throughout the week—staying until after midnight Friday—monitoring developments and working closely with legislators to track and advocate for our key priorities as votes unfolded in real time. As the legislature begins post-Crossover Day work this week, beginning with legislative day 29 on Monday, attention will now turn to bills that are still alive, with lawmakers reviewing, amending, and negotiating final versions of legislation before the end of the session.

Healthcare Updates

Healthcare policy remained a major focus this week in the Georgia General Assembly as lawmakers worked through a packed schedule of committee hearings and floor votes. Legislative activity continued past midnight Friday as policymakers pushed forward priority legislation and debated proposals affecting Georgia’s healthcare system.

The Topspin Government Relations team remained actively engaged at the Capitol throughout the week, monitoring legislation and advocating on behalf of physician and health care priorities. One key priority bill, HB 717, which puts a regulatory framework in place for ketamine clinics, advanced during the busy week of legislative activity and will continue through the legislative process as lawmakers now turn their attention to measures that successfully made it through either the House or the Senate.

The team also successfully defended against several scope of practice expansion bills, including HB 1088, HB 1150, and HB 981. These proposals would have significantly expanded the authority of non-physician providers to practice with greater independence from physician supervision.

- HB 1088 would have replaced the term “chiropractor” with “chiropractic physician.”
- HB 1150 proposed changes to supervision and collaboration requirements that would have allowed mid-level providers to prescribe stimulants.
- HB 981 sought to expand prescriptive authority for NPs and APRNs. Legislation passed two years ago that allowed expanded prescriptive authority in emergent situations for five days to include opioids but

prohibited these prescriptions for those under 18 years old. HB 981 would have expanded the prescriptive authority to a 30 day prescription, added certain stimulants, and removed the under 18 prohibition.

Defeating these proposals represents an important step in protecting the physician-led team model of care, maintaining strong clinical oversight, and ensuring patients receive high-quality medical care across Georgia. The Topspin Government Relations team will continue monitoring health care legislation closely and engaging with policymakers as the session progresses.

Political Update

This week in Georgia politics was dominated by candidate qualifying, the formal process where individuals file paperwork, meet eligibility requirements, and pay a qualifying fee to officially place their names on the ballot for the upcoming election. Qualifying took place at the Georgia State Capitol and included candidates running for statewide offices, Congress, and the Georgia General Assembly ahead of the May 19, 2026 primary election. Several notable candidates qualified or entered races. At the same time, a few notable political figures announced they would not run for reelection. Senators Elena Parent and Ed Harbison announced they will retire rather than seek reelection. In the House, Rep. Dewey McClain announced his retirement and Rep. Park Cannon did not qualify to run for reelection. Together, these announcements and qualifying filings officially launched the 2026 election cycle and set the stage for competitive primaries across Georgia.

GLS Update

The Georgia Life Sciences government relations team successfully led the effort to defeat HB 139, legislation sponsored by Rep. Todd Jones (25th) that would have prohibited drug manufacturers and wholesalers from preventing licensed pharmacies from acquiring drugs through entities participating in the federal 340B drug discount program. The bill was put on Thursday's House Health and Human Services agenda unexpectedly at 8:30pm Wednesday night for consideration at 2:30pm Thursday. In response, we quickly mobilized with an impressive group of over 20 colleagues and worked the committee, engaging key legislators to raise concerns about the legislation and its potential impact. As importantly, we were able to persuade a few legislators who were on the fence or against us to be absent for the vote. As a result of these efforts, the committee voted to table the bill by a resounding 10-4 margin. Because this action occurred the day before crossover in the second year of the biennium, the measure is effectively dead for the remainder of the legislative session. We will remain vigilant through the end of the session to ensure similar language or policy proposals do not reappear in other legislation. Thanks to all who worked together to defeat this legislation.

Tracked Bills Introduced or Moved This Week

[HB810 Insurance; require that final reimbursements to pharmacies for prescription drugs are based on certain formulas \(House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute, 03/06/2026\)](#)

[HB968 Controlled substances; mitragynine and hydroxymitragynine \(7-OH\) are Schedule I; provide \(House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute, 03/06/2026\)](#)

[HB1302 Education and Workforce Strategy Act; enact \(Senate Read and Referred, 03/06/2026\)](#)

[HR1583 House Study Committee on Small Business Technology Adoption; create \(House First Readers, 03/06/2026\)](#)

[HR1474 Georgia House of Representatives; creation of a life sciences caucus; encourage \(House Second Readers, 03/03/2026\)](#)

[HB1332 Georgia Buy American Medicine Act; enact \(House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute, 03/03/2026\)](#)

[SB399 \(House Second Readers, 03/04/2026\)](#)

Tracked Bills

[HR948 House Study Committee on Pharmacy Benefits Managers and Consumer Access to Prescription Medications; create \(House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute, 02/19/2026\)](#)

[HB980 Georgia-Ireland Trade Commission; create \(Senate Read and Referred, 02/09/2026\)](#)

[HB1119 Labor and industrial relations; pharmacy care guidelines and pharmacy management networks under workers' compensation; provide \(House Withdrawn, Recommitted, 02/05/2026\)](#)

[HB991 Labor and industrial relations; definition of employment for certain services performed by certain healthcare technology platform contractors; provisions \(House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute, 01/29/2026\)](#)

[HB1033 Georgia Access to Healthcare for Alzheimer's Disease and Dementias Act; enact \(House Second Readers, 01/29/2026\)](#)

[HB1039 Georgia Equitable Economic Development Act; enact \(House Second Readers, 01/29/2026\)](#)

[HB988 State employees; require health benefit plan to cover hormone replacement therapy for biological women experiencing perimenopause and menopause when such therapy is ordered or prescribed \(House Second Readers, 01/27/2026\)](#)

[HB981 Professions and businesses; expand certain advanced practice registered nurse and physician assistant prescriptive authorizations \(House Second Readers, 01/27/2026\)](#)

[HB923 Pharmacies; furnish patients with written informational material when dispensing certain prescription drugs; require \(House Second Readers, 01/12/2026\)](#)

[HB931 Health; control high costs of prescription drugs; establish framework \(House Second Readers, 01/12/2026\)](#)

[HB101 State employees; annual public report on the amount of prescription drug rebates and other price concessions applied to premium reductions; provide \(House Withdrawn, Recommitted, 04/04/2025\)](#)

[HB690 Pharmacy benefits managers; duty of care to insureds, health plans, and providers; provide \(House Second Readers, 03/04/2025\)](#)

[HB139 Pharmacies; prohibit drug manufacturer and wholesalers from preventing a licensed pharmacy from acquiring drugs from entities that participate in a particular federal drug discount program \(House Second Readers, 01/29/2025\)](#)

[HB100 Prescription Drug Consumer Financial Protection Act; enact \(House Second Readers, 01/28/2025\)](#)

[SB428 Medical Assistance; Department of Community Health to submit a waiver request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; direct \(House Second Readers, 02/26/2026\)](#)

[SR851 Georgia Senate; creation of a life sciences caucus; encourage \(Senate Read and Referred, 02/25/2026\)](#)

[SB427 Physicians; limited provisional licenses and a pathway to licensure for certain internationally trained physicians; provide \(House Second Readers, 02/25/2026\)](#)

[SB487 Education Workforce Data Governance Advisory Committee; within the Office of Student Achievement; establish \(Senate Read Second Time, 02/19/2026\)](#)

[SB402 Children and Youth; pilot program provision for screenings, clinical evaluations, training for autism spectrum disorder to children in foster care; establish \(House Second Readers, 02/10/2026\)](#)

[SB455 Georgia Artificial Intelligence Commission; establishment \(Senate Read and Referred, 02/04/2026\)](#)

[SB91 State Employees' Health Insurance Plan; Board of Community Health from entering into, executing, or renewing a contract with any pharmacy benefits manager that owns or has an ownership interest in any retail pharmacy; prohibit \(House Withdrawn, Recommitted, 04/04/2025\)](#)

[SB111 \(House Withdrawn, Recommitted, 03/27/2025\)](#)

[SB60 Pharmacy Benefits Managers; managers have a duty of care to insureds, health plans, and providers; provide \(Senate Read and Referred, 01/30/2025\)](#)

[SB50 \(Senate Read and Referred, 01/29/2025\)](#)